

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2293

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, XM, NU

SUBJECT: MILITARY GROUP STAFFING

REF: MANAGUA 4724

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO CALL THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION TO THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EARLY DISCUSSION ON FUTURE MILITARY GROUP STAFFING AND TO SEEK GUIDANCE ON THE MATTER OF REPLACEMENTS FOR THE MILGP.

2. MILGP PRESENTLY HAS ELEVEN MEMBERS. CURRENT LEGISLATION PROVIDES THAT, UNLESS AN EXCEPTION IS GRANTED, STAFFING WILL BE REDUCED TO THREE MEMBERS BY SEPTEMBER. THE QUESTIONS OF WHETHER TO CONTINUE PERSONNEL TURNOVERS AND FOR HOW LONG SHOULD BE ANSWERED IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. THREE MEMBERS OF OUR MILGP ARE SCHEDULED TO BE TRANSFERRED OUT IN THE MAY-JUNE PERIOD. REPLACEMENTS HAVE BEEN NAMED AND ARE IN MILITARY PERSONNEL PIPE-LINE. THE QUESTION HAS TO BE FACED SHORTLY AS TO WHETHER THOSE REPLACEMENTS SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO NICARAGUA WHILE FACING THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING TRANSFERRED OUT SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER ARRIVAL. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, THERE ARE MANY PERSONAL, FINANCIAL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS AND HARDSHIPS RELATED TO SUCH SHORT-TERM TRANSFERS.

3. EMBASSY REALIZES THAT THIS IS A WORLD-WIDE PROBLEM UNDER
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CONSIDERATION BY THE DEPARTMENT THAT REQUIRES ACTION BY THE DEPARTMENT, OTHER USG AGENCIES AND THE CONGRESS. WE MERELY WISH TO REMIND THE DEPARTMENT THAT THE TIME IS APPROACHING WHEN SPECIFIC DETERMINATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE MADE FOR THIS MISSION RELATED TO SPECIFIC PERSONNEL TRANSFERS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REPORT ON DEPARTMENT'S BEST ESTIMATE OF TIMING OF DECISION ON THIS ISSUE AND, OF COURSE, ANY ADVANCE INDICATIONS ON THE LEGISLATIVE

PROSPECTS INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AEXCEPTIONS PROVIDED
FOR IN THE LAW.
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